

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LUTHERAN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

EVANGELICAL

# LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF

THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, &c.

CONVENED IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN THE TOWN

OF RHINEBECK, DUTCHESS COUNTY, ON

THE FOURTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER,

A. D. 1819.

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ALBANY:

PRINTED BY G. J. LOOMIS & CO.  
State Street.

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD, &c.

*Extract from the minutes of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the state of New-York, convened in the town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, on Saturday the 4th of September, 1819.*

On Saturday the 4th of September, 1819, the Ministers and Lay Delegates of the Lutheran Church in the state of New-York, and other adjacent states, and countries, assembled in the town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co. ; divine service was held in St. Peter's Church, where the Rev. President delivered a discourse in the German language on Philippians 1, vi. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

On the Sunday following divine service was held in the same church and language in the forenoon, where the Rev. J. C. Yager of Allentown, Pennsylvania, preached on 1 John 1, 7. "The blood of Jesus Christ, his son, cleanseth from all sins." At the same time, divine service was held also in St. Paul's church in the town of Wurtemberg, where the Rev. Augs. Wackerhagen preached in the German.

language on Philippians II. 12, 13. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling! for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." In the afternoon divine service was held in St. Peter's church only, where the Rev. F. C. Schaeffer of New-York preached in the English language on Luke xxiii, 8—14. "And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad, &c."

On Monday morning, the ministers and Lay Delegates assembled in Synod in St. Peter's church, where the following persons were present :

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1 The Rev. Fr. H. QUITMAN, D. D. *President.*  
Minister of Rhinebeck and Wurtemberg.

2 Rev. AUGS. WACKERHAGEN, *Secretary,* and  
Minister of Germantown and Livingston.

3 Rev. Fr. G. MAYER, *Treasurer,* and Minister  
at Albany.

Rev. J. CONRAD, YAGER, *Secretary* of the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, Minister of Allentown, and deputy for that Synod to the Synod of the state of New-York,

4 Rev. Ph. F. MAYER, Minister of Philadelphia.

5 Rev. J. G. UHL. Minister of Churchtown.

6 Rev. Wm. M'CARTY, Minister of Greenbush and Brunswick.

7 Rev. L. MERKEL, Minister of Guilderland and Bern.

8 Rev. F. C. SCHAEFFER, Minister of New-York.

9 Rev. DAV. HENDRICKS, Minister of New German-town and Spruclerun, New-Jersey.

10 Rev. A. G. LINTNER, Minister of Schoharie and Cobleskill.  
 11 Rev. Wm. TEAL,  
 12 Rev. G. MILLER, of Canajoharie, } Candidates.

JOHN C. FELTMAN, of Albany.

HENRY ROW of Greenbush and Brunswick.

JB. MANN, of Schoharie and Cobleskill,  
 L. POTTS, of Churchtown.

G. MARQUARD, of Rhinebeck and Wurtemberg,

G. LEATHERMAN, of New-York,

JOHN JOS. SCHAEFFER, of Guilderland and Bern.

JB. KERN, New Germantown, and Sprucerun,

JON. TRAVER, of Ghent.

Lay-  
Dele-  
gates.

The session was opened with prayer by the President, after which new officers were chosen by ballot, the Rev. Messrs Schaeffer and Lintner being tellers. From the counting of the votes it appeared, that the former officers were re-elected. The President accepted of his new appointment, but expressed the wish, that for the future he might be excused from long official journeys, which request, founded on the age and bodily constitution of the President, was readily complied with.

The President having taken the chair laid before the Synod the credentials of the Rev. J. C. Yager as Deputy to this Synod from the Lutheran Synod of the state of Pennsylvania. These, and a letter previously received by the President from the Rev.

Mr. Schmucker, President of the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, were read by the Secretary.

The President then reported to the Synod upon the business done by him during the recess of the Synod; he stated, that in the month of June he had, with the assistance of the Rev. Messrs. Moeller, Domeier, and Merkel, ordained the Rev. A. G. Lintner in St. Paul's church, Schoharie.

The Secretary read a letter from the Rev. John Bachman of Charleston, South-Carolina, directed to the Synod assembled at Albany in 1818, but received by the Secretary after the Synod had adjourned, purporting to inclose the sum of \$60 as a gift from the Lutheran congregation at Charleston to our Ministerial Treasury, but in fact containing only a note of \$50, it being visible, that the note of \$10, which was missing, was either lost or purloined from the letter.

Another letter from the Rev. Wm. Starman, of Waldoborough, (Maine,) was read, which contained \$30, as a contribution to the missionary fund of this Synod.

A letter was read, directed to the Secretary, by the Rev. James G. Ogilvie, pastor of the first Presbyterian church at Aurora, requesting the Synod to supply him with the rules of Faith and Church government of the Lutheran church in this state, to aid him in the composition of a certain historico-theological work.

A letter from the Rev. John Goodman, candidate of Germantown, Pennsylvania, accompanied by two sermons of his composition, was read.

The President reported, that in the recess of the Synod, Mr. G. Miller of New-Germantown, New-Jersey, had applied to him, praying to be received as a candidate for the ministry in the Lutheran church of this state, and that after previous examination, he had given him a temporary license, and that the candidate was now present, praying to have his license renewed and to be received by this Synod. Since his first license, Mr. Miller had preached in Canojoharie, and received a call from the people of that place.

The President reported also upon the situation of Mr. Pfeiffer, the former minister of Rhinebeck, who labours still under the long continued affliction of mental derangement and is destitute of the necessary assistance.

The President mentioned, that he had received a letter from the Rev. Fr. Mayer, at present in Canada, wherein he expresses a wish, to be settled again in this state.

The President, lastly, laid before the Synod the report of a Missionary journey, made by the Rev. John Molther, through some of the western parts of this state, in the winter and spring of the present year.

After this the respective contributions to the min-

isterial treasury, were received, viz. from the congregations at

Rhinebeck and Wurtemberg,	\$3 00
West-Camp,	1 00
Germantown and Livingston,	2 00
Churchtown,	1 50
Guilderland and Bern,	5 00
Ghent,	1 50
New-Germantown and Sprucerun,	5 00
Albany,	5 00
Greenbush and Brunswick,	3 00
New-York,	10 00
Schoharie and Cobleskill,	6 00
Rev. Ph. F. Mayer,	5 00
	\$48

A certain printed paper, entitled, "*Plan—Entwurf zur Vereinigung der Lutherischen Synoden in den Vereinigten Staten.*" (A plan to effect a union of all the Synods of the Lutheran church in the United States)—and sent by the President of the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania to the President of this Synod, was twice read, and after a lengthy discussion of the contents and purpose of that paper, it was

*Resolved*, That a committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Uhl, Schaeffer and M'Carty, and of Messrs. Traver and Feltman, consult on the Plan-Entwurf deliberately and report thereon, and, in case they approve of the idea expressed in it, they either

frame another plan as a substitute, or modify it in such a manner, as to them may appear most proper.

With regard to Mr. G. Miller, candidate, it was

*Resolved*, That a committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs Ph. F. Mayer, Fr. G. Mayer, and Aug. Wackerhagen, examine the candidate, and report to the Synod.

The written report of the Rev. J. Molther, on his missionary journey and services, being taken up again, after discussion of the subject, it was

*Resolved*, That the Rev. J. Molther be allowed the sum of \$30 for his missionary services.

Mr. Pfeiffer's situation having been discussed, it was

*Resolved*, That the sum of \$20 of the Ministerial Treasury be appropriated for his assistance, by the hand of the President.

The Committee having reported on the Plan-Entwurf, and their report being read twice, after considerable discussion, it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That their report be accepted.

The report was as follows :—

The committee, to whom was referred the communication from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the state of Pennsylvania and adjacent states, rel-

tive to a central union of the Evangelical Lutheran Synods in the United States—

## REPORT,

That they have carefully investigated the subject, and find, that some of the principles of the Plan-Entwurf, or plan proposed by the Synod of Pennsylvania, are at variance with the spirit of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran ministerium in the state of New-York. The proposed plan provides for the appointment of Clerical and Lay-Delegates from different Lutheran Synods in the United States, who shall constitute a "Central Synod," and shall meet at least once in every three years. This body, with the consent of a majority of the Synods, shall have power to introduce into the congregations such a Liturgy, Catechism, and other books, as may be thought expedient. But there is an express condition, that the general Synod shall have no authority, to make any alteration in the doctrines of faith, which the churches now maintain. The general Synod is also to have power to sanction the organization of new particular Synods, to appoint the different degrees of order among the Clergy and to decide subjects of controversy in cases of appeal from any Synod or members thereof; every individual Synod is however to provide the ways and means for defraying the expenses of its Delegates to the Central Synod. As soon as three fourths of the Synods in the United States have notified the President of the

Synod of Pennsylvania, of the acceptance of the proposed plan, the said President is required to transmit this information to all other Synods, and to appoint the place and time, when and where the first meeting of the Central Synod shall be held. Such are the outlines of the plan.

But your Committee are of opinion, that all the good effects, which the proposed plan anticipates, may be realized with less trouble, danger and expense, by a general adoption and enforcement of the fourth section in the 9th chapter of the constitution of this Ministerium, vide page 31.

This rule, while it encourages the most friendly intercourse and communication between the different Synods, is eminently qualified, to contribute towards the general interest and welfare of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in this country. It appears to be the most practicable and effectual mode, by which unity and concord may be promoted and preserved. We, therefore, after conscientious deliberation, recommend to this Synod the following resolutions: namely—

*Resolved*, 1. That the plan of a Central Synod, proposed by the Synod of Pennsylvania, cannot be accepted.

2. That an adoption of the fourth section of the 9th chapter in the constitution of this Ministerium be earnestly recommended to the Evangelical Lutheran Synods in the United States.

3. That this Synod will continue, as often as practicable to send Delegates to other Evangelical Lutheran Synods in the United States, and will always receive upon the same footing, the Delegates from other Synods, according to the 4th section aforesaid.

4. That this Synod will annually appoint a standing committee of correspondence, who shall, according to annual instructions from the Synod, correspond with like Committees of other Lutheran Synods, on such subjects as may be best calculated to promote the prosperity, the extension and happiness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

5. That the President and secretary transmit a copy of the foregoing report and resolutions to the Synod of Pennsylvania, and to the other Lutheran Synods in the United States.

*Rhinebeck, Sept. 7, 1819.*

FR. C. SCHAEFFER,  
J. G. FR. UHL.  
WM. M. CARTY.  
JOHN C. FELTMAN.  
JONATHAN TRAVER.

Upon motion, it was

*Resolved*, That the Committee of correspondence, appointed last year, and consisting of the President, the Secretary and the Rev. Fr. C. Schaeffer, continue till the next annual Synod. After some discussion on the friendly relation between this Synod and that of Pennsylvania, it was

**Resolved,** That the Rev. Augustus Wackerhagen, the secretary of this Synod be, and the same is hereby appointed a Deputy from this Synod to that of Pennsylvania, for the ensuing year, to represent this body in the next meeting of the Pennsylvania Synod to be held at Lancaster.

**Resolved,** That the secretary be directed to transmit to the secretaries of the other Lutheran Synods in the United States, correct and complete lists of the names of all the members of this Synod, together with the names of the places, in which they officiate as ministers, and that the secretary request the same from them, and that as soon as the list of the Clergymen of the Lutheran Church in the United States shall be complete, the secretary of this Synod be directed to have it printed.

**Resolved,** That the most important transactions and resolutions of this synod be, for the future, printed in annual extracts, (250 copies,) and by the secretary communicated to the several congregations belonging to this synod.

The Rev. Wm. Teal, candidate, appeared before the Synod expressing his desire to resign his seat in this Synod. After Mr. Teal had returned to the Synod, his certificate of license, it was

**Resolved,** That Mr. Teal's resignation be accepted.

The contents of the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie's letter, having been discussed, it was

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie's request cannot be granted, and that the secretary inform him of this resolution.

*Resolved*, That the next Synod convene in the city of New-York on the last Sunday in the month of August, 1820.

*Resolved*, That the cordial thanks of this Synod be given to the congregation at Rhinebeck, for the kind and friendly entertainment provided by them for the Ministers and Lay-Delegates, and that this resolution be inserted in the printed extract from these minutes.

*Resolved*, That the Synod be closed, and that the Ministers remain in session.

In this session the Committee reported upon the examination of Mr. G. Miller, and the report being of the most favourable nature, it was

*Resolved*, That Mr. G. Miller receive full license to preach the gospel, administer the sacraments and perform all other clerical functions.

Upon which, Mr. G. Miller, having promised faithfully to discharge his duty as a Protestant Clergyman, and to be guided by the constitution adopted by the Ministerium of the Lutheran Church in the state of New-York, &c. was cordially received with the right hand of fellowship, by all the Ministers present. Upon which it was

**Resolved, That the meeting adjourn.**

The session was closed with prayer by the Rev.  
Mr. Schaeffer, the President being unwell.

In the afternoon divine service was held in the English language, in which the Rev. Mr. Lintner of Schoharie preached on Rom. v. 1.

**FREDERICK H. QUITMAN, D. D. President,  
AUGUSTUS WACKERHAGEN, Secretary.**

